

Human Services Funding Committee / Community Development Committee (CDC)
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PUBLIC HEARING
November 16, 2009

Committee Members Attending: Paulette Brooks, Jana McClure, Mary Jane Laus, Isaac BenEzra, and Claude Tellier

Town Staff: Roy Rosenblatt.

Absent Committee Members: : Lewis Rudolph

Attending community members: Connie Kruger, Cynthia Brubaker, Barbara Ford, Eric Magazu, Terry Forrest, Cheryl Zoll, Judith Roberts, Nancy Gregg, Elissa Rubinstein, Bernie Rubinstein, Winnifred Manning

The Public Hearing for the Community Development Block Grant funding was held on Monday, November 16, 2009 beginning at 6 p.m. in the first floor Meeting Room of Amherst Town Hall. Mary Jane Laus chaired the meeting and called it to order promptly at 6:00 p.m. The purpose of the public hearing was 1. to discuss and receive comments on the Town's community Development Block Grant Activities including the 2008 Mini-Entitlement Program, 2. to discuss and receive comments on the Town's revised 2010 Community Development Strategy to be submitted with the 2010 CDBG application, and 3. to receive input regarding reallocation of funding from the Town's 2008 Mini-entitlement Program concerning approximately \$140,000 other housing eligible activities. Mr. Rosenblatt opened the discussion with a brief explanation of the CDBG history and process as well as the community development strategy that mirrors the master-plan concepts. (These can be viewed in their entirety on the town's website).

Projects discussed by those present were: Olympia Drive Development of affordable housing, Housing for homeless individuals, University Drive affordable housing for seniors, and/or families and disabled persons, a formal assessment to determine Senior / disabled persons' housing needs in Amherst, Survival Center relocation, 100 units of affordable senior housing at the Greenleaves apartments, and Amherst Housing Authority affordable units, and replacement boiler heating units for the Watson Farms Apartments.

The 2010 Capital Budget and social services priorities were reviewed, foreclosures and rental evictions were discussed as well as the expenditure of the Waxman funds. Judith Roberts, from the Literacy Project, informed those present about her organization's Amherst outreach.

- Mary Jane Laus moved that Mr. Rosenblatt apply for an extension for the 2008 grant. Paulette Brooks seconded. The vote was unanimous.

In addition to the motion, the committee requested that Mr. Rosenblatt secure data to confirm the justification for the Watson Farms heating replacement. Ie the useful life, upkeep and guarantees of the present heating system, % of prospective savings for each family.

The meeting was dissolved at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Paulette Brooks